

Dr Noel Schleiger

3 October 1926 – 14 April 2013

Noel Schleiger, a highly active member of FNCV over the past 23 years, has died aged 86. Noel was elected as a member of the FNCV on 29 November 1984. He was elected to Council in 1990 and continued to serve the club as a Council member until 2012. During that period he took on a number of roles, including being Programme Secretary 1990–1991; Activities Coordinator 1991–1998; Vice President 1998–2003 and 2009–2012; and representative of the Geology Special Interest Group (SIG) 2005–2012.

Over and above this contribution, Noel was involved in the club in a number of ways. Between 1990 and 2007 he contributed 19 articles (Contributions, Naturalist Notes, meeting reports, and Book Reviews) to *The Victorian Naturalist*. He was the author of *Roadside geology* (1995), which was published jointly by FNCV and the Geological Society of Australia (Victorian Division). When a second attempt was made to form an FNCV Day Group, in 1996, Noel willingly took on its coordination, acting as Secretary to the group for the short period of its existence.

Noel's primary interest in natural history was geology and he was a central figure in the Geology SIG over the period of his membership. In the decade beginning 1999 he gave three talks, led four excursions and wrote up eight geology reports for the club's newsletter *Field Nats News*. His talks were always well prepared and laden with his own brand of pun-ish humour. Outside of the FNCV, Noel was a popular lecturer and excursion leader in geology for the Nunawading U3A.

Noel was always willing and prepared to represent the FNCV, which he did on the Committee of SEANA from 1995 to 2012, and for a period on the General Committee of the Australian Natural History Medallion. From 2003



to 2012 he served also on the Committee of the FNCV Environment Fund.

Noel Schleiger's greatest and longest-enduring legacy for the FNCV will be the *Field Nats News*. He was the founding Editor and continued to edit the newsletter from Issue 1 in November 1990 to Issue 226, December 2012. As he wrote (Schleiger 2005), '... the *Field Nats News* began ... as a means of more quickly providing information to members of the FNCV about excursions, and other future events.' Working with his partner, the late Dorothy Mahler, collation of the 500-plus copies of the first few issues was undertaken in their home, sometimes on their own, sometimes with additional helpers.

Papers by Noel Schleiger, published in *The Victorian Naturalist*.

1990	Report of talk by JM Bowler: 'The new museum on the south bank'	107 (4)
1991	Buttressed booyongs at Binna Burra, Mt Lamington plateau	108 (5)
1992	Excursion report: Linear park and urban forest	109 (6)
1993	Beach sand, periwinkles and green algae height variations at Point Lonsdale	110 (4)
1993	Lightning strike on Ironbark	110 (5)
1995	How to be a Field Naturalist – shell collecting	112 (2)
1996	Review of <i>The You Yangs range</i>	113 (2)
1998	Studies in the structure of Mount Buffalo granite	115 (5)
1999	Tribute – Joan Harry	116 (1)
1999	FNCV Honorary Life Member – Jack Hyett	116 (5)
2000	Shell studies at Edward Point, South Bellarine Peninsula	117 (1)
2000	'Those Hitler birds'	117 (2)
2000	Review of <i>Rock of ages: human use and natural history of Australian granites</i>	117 (5)
2001	McCoy's contribution to graptolithography	118 (6)
2001	Tribute – John Stewart	118 (1)
2002	Geomorphology of the Murray Basin	119 (3)
2005	A modern peat deposit at Rosebud	122 (5)
2005	Evolution of <i>Field Nats News</i> – a tribute to our volunteers	122 (6)
2007	An exercise in lichenometry at Point Lonsdale	124 (1)

In October 2012 Noel was made an Honorary Life Member of FNCV, along with Dorothy, in recognition of their long and valuable service to the club. I thank Rob Hamson for providing details regarding Noel's role in the Geology Group.

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Noel Schleiger (far left) with other members of the FNCV Geology Group excursion to Plenty Gorge in November 2004. Photo Bill Fenner.